

H.C. Burleigh Papers

Thurston

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Thurston

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# Memories of South Bay

By HOWARD DULMAGE

I would like to give a little history of the Thurstons, partly because my grandmother Dulmage was a Thurston.

In 1837, John Thurston and wife, Susan Hayhoe, came from Bath, County of Norfolk, England, on a sailing boat, and after a few weeks on the ocean and having to bury one child at sea, they landed near Kingston and made their home at Bath, Ontario, which, I believe, was named after their original home.

Their family was nine children, five sons and four daughters, of whom some of the older ones were born in England. The eldest son, was William Thurston. His family comprised of Willie Thurston of Bath, George Thurston of Sandhurst, Oliver Thurston of Picton, Spencer Thurston of Kitchener, Stephen, of Natal, South Africa, Clarence, Benjamin and Susie, dieing in infancy, and a daughter, Mary.

The second son of John and Susan Thurston was Joseph, whose family were Percy of Bongards and Lillie, who married Nelson Minaker and died quite young.

The third son of John and Susan was James, whose offspring were Frank and Herb, both of Detroit, and Jennie, who married Faye Roderick.

Stephen was the fourth son of the original Thurstons. He left Bath while a young man and ended up in Natal, South Africa, where he married and had a large family. He never returned to Canada.

The fifth Thurston child was Su



HOWARD DULMAGE

of celery and two men hoeing or working in the fields.

The two Borden boys at that time worked in a paper mill around Plainwell. There were several paper mills in that area, the Kalamazoo Parchment being the largest. It used to have a branch at Espanola, Ontario.

On their way back in that district they accidently ran off the pavement and sank into the sand. A Detroit News truck came along, and the driver, without asking, hooked a chain and hauled the car back on the road. They offered to pay him, but he just told them



san, who married Tyler Bongard, whose family comprised of Tom Bongard of Bongards, James, who left for Western Canada, and I believe one other son, and two daughters, Lucretia, who married William Minaker of Cherry Valley and Cynthia, married to Hart Cameron of Revelstoke, B.C.

The sixth Thurston child was Cynthia, who lived at Glenora and had one son, Charles.

Adelaide, the seventh Thurston child, married first Barnett Palmaticr, and secondly Norman Ostrander. Her family comprised of John and Pierre Palmaticr, and Cassie and Nelson Ostrander.

The eighth Thurston child was Amy Matilda, who married Capt. William Dulmage and lived at South Bay, then Cherry Valley and finally Picton. The offspring were Orcean, Stephen, Sidney, Maude, and J. Roblin Dulmage.

John Thurston was the ninth child of John and Susan. He settled in Kalamazoo, Mich. His family were Henry Bidwell, Arnold, May, who married George Borden, and Carrie, who married Ira Greely and settled in Plainwell, Mich.

John Palmaticr left South Bay when a young man and went to Michigan where his uncle had gone a few years previously. He worked at different trades, made his home there and had a family.

In 1928, my father and mother, after having received a notice of a Thurston reunion, decided to go out to Kalamazoo to attend it. My brother, Roy, and Hilda Dulmage accompanied them on the trip. They left in August. My brother did the driving. They drove a 1927 Chevrolet sedan. They were three days, and I believe they spent the first night at Niagara Falls.

They stayed most of the time at John Palmaticr's in Kalamazoo. John worked for the Michigan Central Railroad. He also had a little land, kept one horse and did some gardening. They also visited at George and May Borden's, Mrs. Borden being a cousin of father.

While there, they also went to see Walter and Leo Borden, sons of George and May, who lived in or near Plainwell, Mich. They also visited at Ira Thurston's, who lived close to John Palmaticr, and Garret and Lottie Nuyen. Lottie and Ira were son and daughter of Johnny Thurston. When Mr. Thurston died, his widow, Rose, married John Palmaticr for her second husband, and his second wife. John had two or three children by his first wife, Ruby, a girl, and son Everett. I'm not sure if that was all.

Kalamazoo was called the "celery city" as the land around was adapted for celery growing and the children would stand along the streets and roads holding out bunches of celery to sell to passing motorists.

I remember May Borden sending me a post card of a big field

saw who needed help.

The first night on the return trip they stayed with Faye and Jennie Roderick. They later lived in Cherry Valley where Don and Nellie Thurston lived, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Pound and family.

On August 13, 1931, father, mother and Roy, decided to make another trip to Michigan. This time, my Uncle Roblin Dulmage went with them. Teddy Pattison, who had been down through most of his holidays, went back to Toronto with them. The night before they left, the annual chicken pie supper was held in the sheds, with the receipts of the evening being \$165, which was very good for those times when milk only brought 40 to 50 cents a cwt. I believe they stayed at Tom and Maud Pattison's, friends of our folks, the first night, and the next night at Lorain, Ohio.

On their way through Ohio, Uncle Roblin and Roy went in to see a marathon dance. They had to pay to go in. The couples left were just barely holding each other up. (There was a recent movie, They Shoot Horses Don't They, about the marathon dance craze in the 1930s).

They arrived at Kalamazoo the next afternoon. Gasoline at that time could be bought in the U.S. as low as 10 cents a gallon. At one place in Ohio, if you bought 10 gallons of gas, you got a quart of oil free.

John Palmaticr was still at his job as a train crossing guard in the city. He took father, Roy and Roblin up in the tower while a train went through. Also on this trip, they drove to Big Rapids, Mich., and visited Arnold Thurston, a cousin. Oh the day they were there, the local banks closed their doors, after the stock market crash of 1929. We do not know how much of their savings were saved.

They called on several cousins while there, including Ruby Palmaticr. Lee Thurston and his brother had a battery service station. They had a sister, Nora. I don't know if they saw her.

They were treated very good and enjoyed both trips to Michigan. They arrived home on August 26. Since that time, John Palmaticr and his wife have been over to Canada quite a few times. They were over in 1939 just after the war broke out. Garret and Lottie Nuyen brought them, and we had a partial reunion at our place when they lived where Carl and Ruth Ackerman now live.

Garret and Lottie brought Rose Palmaticr and May Borden with them when they were over in September of 1951, and that was the last time any of the Thurston family visited Canada.

Ira Thurston and sister, Lottie, who married Garret Nuyen, were son and daughter of John Thurston, whose father was the original

John Thurston who left here to go to Michigan.

Anyone wanting to follow up the Thurston genealogy can get in touch with me or some of the other Thurston.

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I was sorry to hear of the passing of Deacon Doubleday, whose wife was a near neighbor of ours at South Bay, Geraldine Hicks.

In November of 1954, we were on a three-day trip with Carson and Leta Scott. We went to Syracuse and on to Canadaigua to visit my wife's cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Middlebrook. We came back through Ithaca to Syracuse and called on Herb Bailey and wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Northrup. We stayed in Syracuse all night.

We got up early the next morning and drove down to the studio, where the Deacon was doing his early morning broadcast. It had been previously arranged for Carson and I to come down. We enjoyed hearing him, and we were interviewed and spoke over the radio. There were a few people who heard the broadcast, including Mr. and Mrs. Earl McIntosh. Mr. Doubleday was guest speaker at a Holstein banquet in Wellington one time, and Bob and Geraldine called for a few minutes at our home when Keith Hicks was working there.

We were very sorry to hear of his passing. I thought it was a very nice article in The Gazette, and very true of his ability and good nature and hospitality.

In finishing this, I might say that I called Ira Thurston in Kalamazoo a week ago Sunday, and found them still hale and hearty as well as Garret Nuyens and family, and the Bordens. I will send them some papers when this goes to press.

Just got word that my nephew, Ronald Roy Dulmage of Niagara Falls, had a son, and his name will be Stephen Dulmage.

Howard Dulmage,  
R.R. 3, Picton, Ontario.

Monday, November 30, 1964

Will from Norfolk  
Eng.  
1 Spencer  
2 Oliver  
3 Steve  
4 Bill  
a Geo  
6 Adelaide  
7 Amy  
Mistake  
= 60  
1 Dulmay  
b. 1880

Hand 1 b.c. 1820

Hand 2  
Dulmay  
= a Cole

Neuro-Trasentin

For a tension-free day,  
then a good night's sleep

b.c. 1800



Sunday, November 29, 1964

**Neuro-Trasentin**

Phenobarbital  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr., adiphenine CIBA  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr.

Relaxant-antispasmodic

Memoranda

Steve no of Bill  
H. J. Thunderson

went to Dr. Apur  
dot \$900 & more.  
a doctor. His children  
pictures in 1937, were

known

Chas

Paulsen

Ed. Laide

Herbert J.

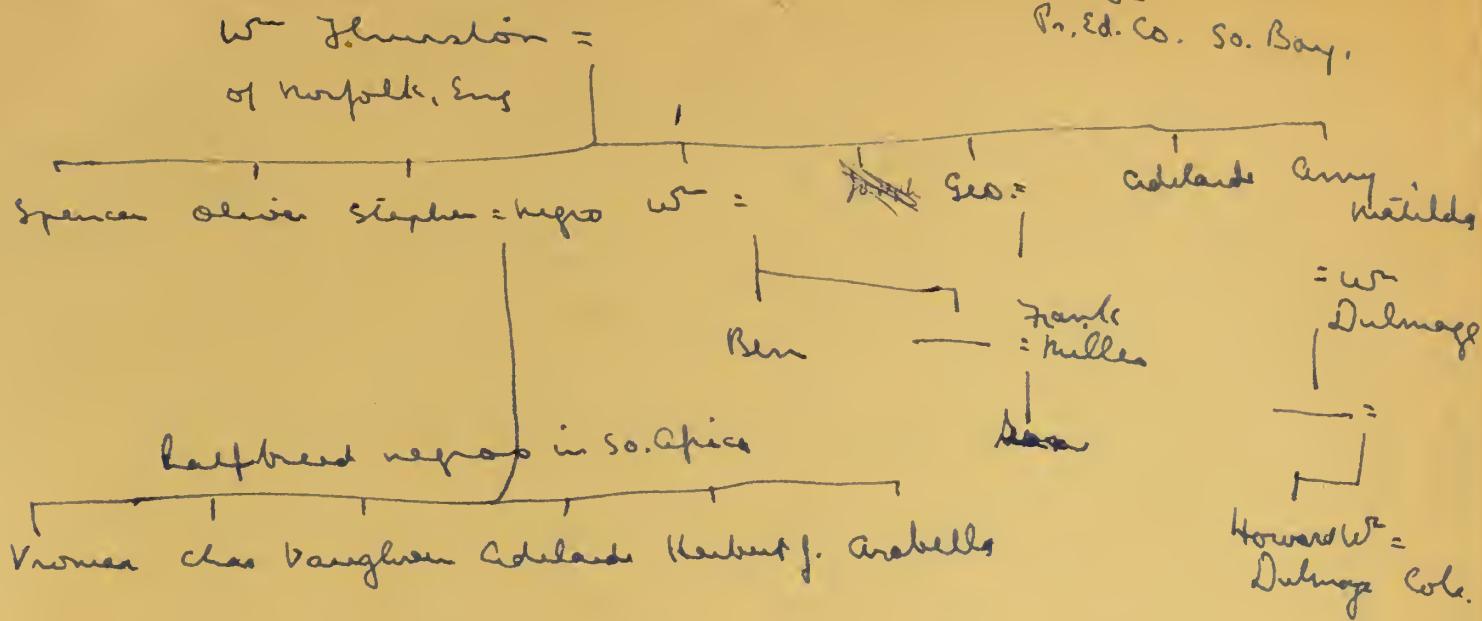
Orville

Oct 20/37

Memoranda



2-5-65  
Pr. Ed. Co. So. Bay.



John Johnston = Susan Haythrop  
of Norfolk Co  
England  
To Can in 1837

